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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,335	11/06/2001	James C. Stevens	38099S	6620

109 7590 10/21/2003

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SECTION
P. O. BOX 1967
MIDLAND, MI 48641-1967

EXAMINER

RABAGO, ROBERTO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1713

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/037,335

Applicant(s)

STEVENS ET AL.

Examiner

Rob Rábago

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Double patenting rejections over application 07/545,403 and patents 5,399,635 and 6,015,868 are withdrawn solely on the basis of amendment to the scope of the activator component (B), which has been amended to exclude those set forth in the cited claims of the aforementioned application and patents.

Double patenting rejection over 5,425,872 is withdrawn over that portion of applicants' remarks which cast doubt on the ultimate product of the reference metallocene described in part as product-by-process in the cited claims being the same as that of the instant claims. While the structures are surely similar, the electrochemical method of making the metallocene may well impart properties to the resultant catalyst composition which are not encompassed by the instant claims.

2. In view of the papers filed 8/4/03, it has been found that this nonprovisional application, as filed, through error and without deceptive intent, improperly set forth the inventorship, and accordingly, this application has been corrected in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(c). The inventorship of this application has been changed by adding Peter N. Nickias and David R. Wilson.

The application will be forwarded to the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE) for issuance of a corrected filing receipt, and correction of the file jacket and PTO PALM data to reflect the inventorship as corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Canich (US 5,055,438).

The reference discloses catalysts and olefin polymerization therewith at col. 2, line 39 through col. 3, line 24, including titanium complexes comprising a bidentate ligand group which is of substantially the same scope as that set forth in claim 1.

Ligand embodiments within the scope of those specified in the claims are described at

✓ Table 1 (col. 5-8), including the required Cp, bridge group and amido functionalities.

Tetrasubstituted-Cp as required in claim 3 is disclosed as the seventh table entry for the Cp substituent. Although patentee has not synthesized a specific example of a titanium complex within the scope of their disclosure, titanium complexes analogous to those exemplified have been clearly suggested. The cocatalyst comprising a mixture of aluminoxanes is disclosed at col. 3, lines 49-51. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use a catalyst for olefin polymerization comprising a titanium complex including a bridged mono-Cp ligand comprising a substituted amide group including a cocatalyst comprising a mixture of aluminoxanes because these embodiments are

clearly within the scope of catalyst and processes which patentee has stated to be useful for olefin polymerization, with reasonable success expected.

The Canich reference claims C-I-P priority to application 07/406,945, filed Sept. 13, 1989. The Canich priority application has been reviewed and found to contain supporting disclosure for both the scope of transition metal complexes and the scope of aluminoxane mixtures from the '438 patent which have been applied against the instant claims. The only priority applications claimed by applicants which predate Sept. 13, 1989 are 07/401,344 and 07/401,345 (each filed August 31, 1989). Application 07/401,345 has been reviewed and found not to contain support for a cocatalyst which is a mixture of aluminoxanes. Application 07/401,344 has not been reviewed because it was unavailable at the time of this action; should applicants take the position that their '344 application contains supporting disclosure sufficient to antedate Sept. 13, 1989, they are requested to provide a photocopy of the '344 application in response to this Office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The references cited on this record have not disclosed the required titanium complex in combination with a noninterfering oxidizing agent as cocatalyst.

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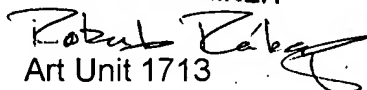
6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rob Rábago whose telephone number is (703) 308-4347. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 am - 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached at (703) 308-2450. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

ROBERTO RABAGO
PATENT EXAMINER

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RR
October 15, 2003